non-conventional energy have not taken off due to faulty implementation;

(b) what steps Government are taking to reduce the expenditure on foreign travel by officials of his Department;

(c) whether it is also a fact that vast sums have been spent on visiting different sites around the world, instead of developing our gobar gas and other Indian alternatives; and

(d) whether a review of the existing programmes will be done to improve its impact on the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposals for foreign travel are examined according to the guidelines issued by the Government. Ministry of Finance have issued detailed instructions for processing and approval of all cases involving foreign travel by officials in this regard.

(c) Foreign travel is undertaken only in connection with specific projects and for attending important meetings and conferences. Some of these are financed by United Nations agencies also. Foreign travel is not allowed to the detriment of normal programmes of the Government.

(d) The programmes are under constant review. National Project for Biogas Development and National Programme on Improved Chulhas are also evaluated by independent agencies. Project for Biogas Development, National Programme on Improved Chulha, Street lighting through solar photo-voltale, integrated energy centres, namely, Urjagrams etc. are already making an impact on the quantitative and qualitative upgradation of the standard of living of the people in rural areas. These programmes have become very popular in the rural areas.

Facilities provided by Central Government to State Governments for setting up industries in backward areas

12. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the facilities/concessions provided by the Central Government to different State Governments in regard to setting up of industries in the backward districts during the last five years; year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. ARUNACHALAM): Details of facilities/concessions provided for setting up industries in Centrally identified backward districts/areas are given in the booklet "Incentives for Industries in Backward Areas (Central Government and Central Financial Institutions)". Details of reimbursements made to the State Governments in identified backward areas during the last five years have been furnished in the statements on Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme and the Scheme for Development of Infrastructure in No Industry Districts. Copies of the booklet as well as statements are available in the Parliament Library.

Rihand Thermal Power Station

13. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which are bidding for the 300 million-pound second stage Rihand Coal fired Power Station; and

(b) whether there has been any delay in completion of the first phase of the project for which contract was undertaken by a British Consortium